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SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO. MAS-A-239

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M
Attention: _____
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna _____

DATE: 7 February 1951

SUBJECT: GENERAL. ☒ Operational
SPECIFIC: Approach to General ZAKO

Reference: MAS-A-159

1. The approach to (General) ZAKO, described in Attachment C to MAS-A-159, was approved by Colonel PERRY but turned down by Colonel KOCH after consultation with Colonel POORMAN and Colonel POWERS of G-3. G-3 did not want to "have anything to do with ZAKO" and Colonel KOCH did not want to expose G-2 USFA to publicity launched by ZAKO.
2. Colonel KOCH's attitude was probably the result of _____ pointing out that dealing with ZAKO might prove very embarrassing if not handled correctly. _____ argued that if ZAKO were met by high army officials who appeared to be well informed on ZAKO's activities and put embarrassing questions to him, he would not be likely to use his meeting in publicity stories.
3. The counter proposal from Colonel KOCH was that the PIO officer originally approached by ZAKO's representative request the meeting with General ZAKO and debrief him cold on his organization and aims. Since we all felt that the cold approach would in no way increase our knowledge of the ZAKO group, _____ and _____ of FJ Cape drew up a variant on Colonel KOCH's counter proposal, providing for the thorough briefing of the PIO officer who was to debrief ZAKO on the basis of prepared questions. This proposal was also rejected by Colonel KOCH, this time on the grounds that the PIO officer would not be acting in character.
4. A great number of man hours have been lost discussing the approach to ZAKO and after one more try at convincing Colonel KOCH to accept our point of view, Colonel DOBSON, who is our spokesman, will withdraw G-2 from the venture and _____ and _____ will proceed on their own. We will keep you informed.
5. An FJ Cape memorandum (21-OSAVA) prepared by _____ indicates the local FJ Cape interest in the ZAKO approach, and proposes the establishment of a Hungarian "legion", independent of ZAKO control.

1 Incl.
2 - Wash
2 - Vien
2 - Salz

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